Claims

1.   A method for routing MBMS (Multicast/Broadcast Multimedia Service) service data from a first network entity (120) to a second network entity (130), **characterized** in that said method has the steps of

5   -defining a packet flow identifier (PFI) associated to at least one MBMS service or a group of terminals (804),

         -creating a packet flow context (PFC) for said MBMS service or group of terminals identified by said packet flow identifier (806),

         -transferring the MBMS service data over the Gb interface by utilizing said
10   packet flow context (812).

2.   A method of claim 1, **characterized** in that it further comprises a step wherein the PFC is mapped to an appropriate logical channel indicated by the MBMS service announcement (808).

3.   A method of claim 1, **characterized** in that it further comprises a step, wherein
15   the first network entity performs flow control of MBMS data on PFC and BVC (BSSGP Virtual Connection) levels (810).

4.   A method of claim 3, **characterized** in that said flow control is additionally performed on a level (704) located between said PFC and BVC levels, said level (704) comprising at least one block (708) whereto at least one PFC is logically connected.

20   5.   A method of claim 1, **characterized** in that terminals in said group of terminals belong to a same multicast group.

6.   A method of claim 1, **characterized** in that terminals in said group of terminals receive data from at least one common source.

7.   A method of claim 1, **characterized** in that said creation of the PFC comprises a
25   step wherein a PFC request (504) is transmitted to a network entity (130) performing said creation.

8.   A method of claim 3-4, **characterized** in that at least part of the flow control parameters are received from the BSS (Base Station System) or GGSN (Gateway GPRS Support Node).

9.   A method of claim 1, **characterized** in that said transferred data is identified by said second network entity (130) on the basis of said PFI.

10.   A system comprising a Gb interface between a first (120) and a second network entity (130), **characterized** in that in order to route MBMS (Multicast/Broadcast Multimedia Service) service data over said Gb interface said first (120) and second (130) network entities are arranged to negotiate a common packet flow identifier (PFI) for said MBMS service or a group of terminals and said second network element (130) is arranged to create a packet flow context (PFC) for said MBMS service or group of terminals.

11.   A system of claim 10, **characterized** in that said system is arranged to perform flow control of said MBMS data at least on PFC (702) and BVC (706) (BSSGP Virtual Connection) levels prior to the transmission over the Gb interface.

12.   A system of claim 11, **characterized** in that said flow control further comprises a level (704) located between said PFC (702) and BVC (706) levels, said level (704) comprising at least one block (708) whereto at least one PFC is logically connected.

13.   A system of claim 10, **characterized** in that said first network entity is substantially the SGSN (Serving GPRS Support Node, 120) and said second network entity is substantially the GERAN (GSM/EDGE Radio Access Network, 130).

14.   A system of claim 10, **characterized** in that said first network entity (120) is arranged to request said creation of the PFC.

15.   A system of claim 10, **characterized** in that it is arranged to map the PFC to an appropriate logical channel indicated by the MBMS service announcement.

16.   A system of claim 10, **characterized** in that terminals in said group of terminals belong to a same multicast group.

17.   A device functionally connected to a Gb interface, **characterized** in that in order to route MBMS (Multicast/Broadcast Multimedia Service) service data over the Gb interface it is arranged to define a packet flow identifier (PFI) associated to at least one MBMS service or a group of terminals, to create a packet flow context (PFC) for said MBMS service or group of terminals identified by said packet flow identifier, and to transfer the MBMS service data over the Gb interface by utilizing said packet flow context.